

Los Alamos National Laboratory

—Technology Maturation Fund

The Technology Maturation Program has been the most efficient and red tape-free program out of all Laboratory operations/initiatives I have been exposed to since I came here in 1997.

—Piotr Zelenay (Laboratory Staff Member)

This modest grant program managed by the Technology Transfer Division to support LANL technologies with high commercial potential. It is similar to a venture capital fund but invests in Lab technologies rather than start-up companies. The goal is to move promising technologies to proof-of-concept or prototype stage to attract potential licensees or investors interested in funding a start-up or commercializing a new technology. LANL has developed a relatively unique concept—similar programs exist at only a handful of other universities and research institutions nationwide.

The Tech Mat Fund has enabled the development of:

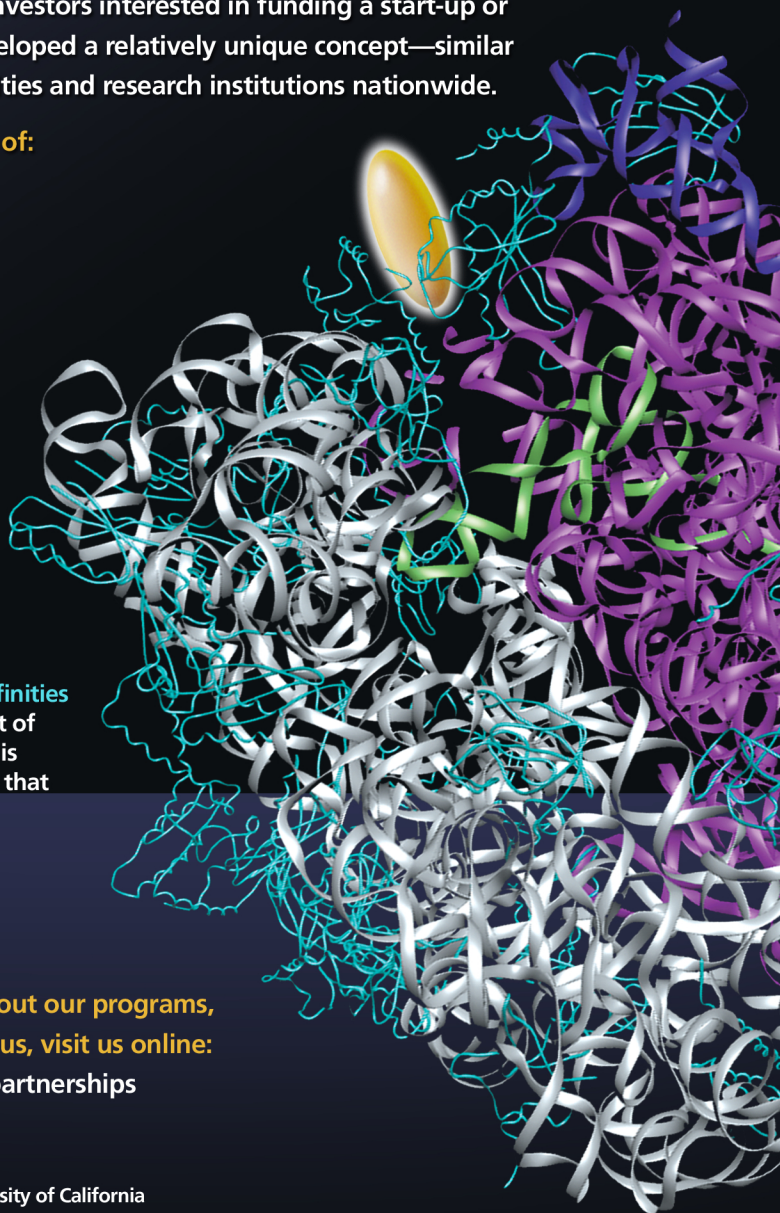
- 6 new inventions
- 9 technology licenses
- 6 CRADAs (cooperative R&D agreements)
- 1 Work-for-Others agreement
- 3 start-up companies

Technologies helped by the fund:



Direct Methanol Fuel Cells
—A \$40K grant enabled development of a prototype fuel cell licensed to Mesoscopic Devices, Inc. for delivery of high specific power stacks to the U.S. Army.

(Right) MESA: Measuring Enzyme-Substrate Affinities (Licensed)—A \$50K grant enabled development of a prototype of this new drug discovery tool. This technology is the foundation for a NM start-up that recently acquired \$6 million in funding.



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